GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2674
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2000
JUVENILE JUSTICE ACT
DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to amend the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 to maketo it more child-friendly and also in conformity with UN Convention on Child Welfare;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some awareness campaign on children rights has been launched;

(d) whether State Governments have been asked to extend their support to the campaign; and

(e) if so, the details thereof with reaction of the State Governments thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI)

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided to replace the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 by anew legislation. A Bill namely `The Juvenile Justice (care and protection of children) Bill, 2000` has already been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 22nd November, 2000. The Bill seeks to make the Juvenile Justice administration more child friendly as also tobring it in conformity with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

(c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has launched an awarenesscampaign called `The National Initiative for Child Protection (NICP)` through theNational Institute of Social Defence, a subordinate officeof the Ministry and Childline India Foundation (CIF).

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The NICP aims at building partnerships with allied systems for child protection andpromotion of child`s rights. These allied systems are the police, the health care systems, the judicial system especially the Juvenile Justice system, the education system, the transport system, the labour department, the media, the telecommunication departments, the corporate sector, the elected representatives and all of us. NICP hopes to achievethis by training people who work within the allied systems. As awareness increases in this group, it is believed that every child will get his or her rights. The State Governments were requested for their support and involvement in implementation of NICP. So far, the responses from them are encouraging. In fact, some of the StateGovernments have already convened meetings at the level of their Chief Secretaries to plan out a strategy to implement the campaign.